

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 are amended. Claims 11 and 12 are newly added. Claims 7 and 8 were canceled previously. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 4 and for newly added Claims 11 and 12 can be found in Figs. 3, 4, and 6, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Rosenquist et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,530,736, herein “Rosenquist”).

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the courtesy of a personal interview granted by Primary Examiner Karla Moore to Applicants’ representative. The personal interview was conducted on January 26, 2009. An additional telephonic interview was conducted on February 9, 2009. The substance of both interviews is provided below in accordance with MPEP §713.04.

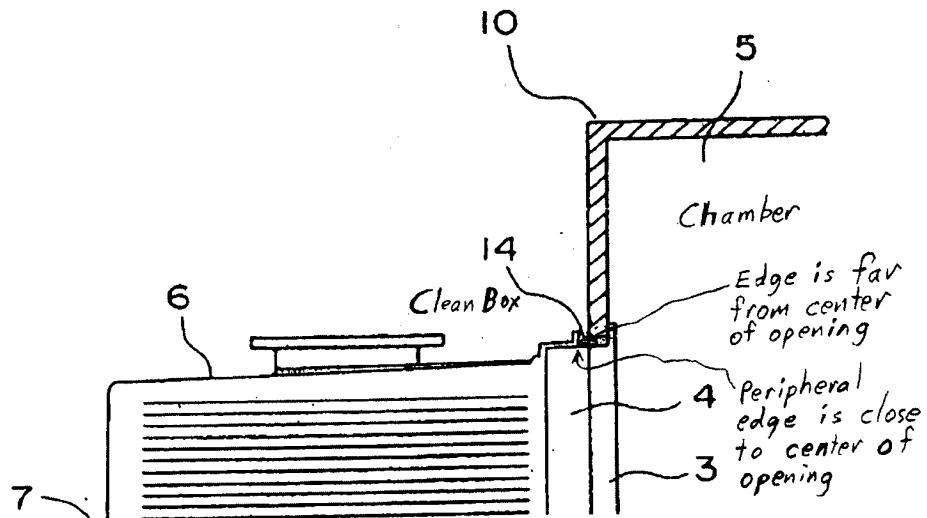
Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 as anticipated by Rosenquist, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part:

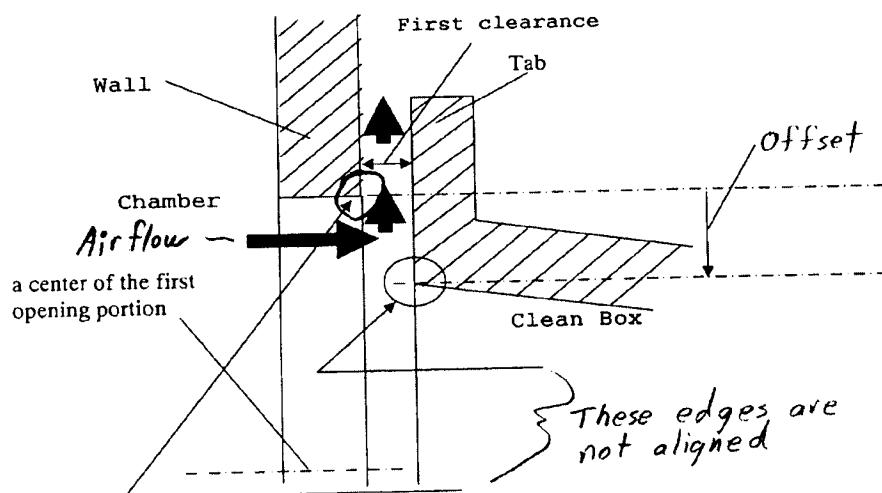
wherein the clean box is settable in a manner where an outermost peripheral edge of the opening of the clean box is positioned closer to a center of said first opening portion in a direction parallel to a plane of the chamber wall than a peripheral edge of said first opening portion in the direction parallel to the plane of the chamber wall so that a part of an airflow from the inside of the chamber at the peripheral edge of said first opening portion in a direction normal to said first opening portion directly hits a chamber side surface of the flange to direct an airflow in the direction along the chamber wall.

Accordingly, **an outermost peripheral edge of the opening in the clean box is positioned closer to a center of the first opening portion in a direction parallel to a plane of the**

chamber wall than a peripheral edge of the first opening portion in the direction parallel to the plane of the chamber wall. As discussed in the personal interview, one non-limiting example of the above-noted arrangement can be found in Fig. 3 of the present application. A copy of Fig. 3 with annotations showing an example of the above-noted feature and a simplified annotated version of Fig. 3 discussed during the personal interview and the telephonic interview are provided below.



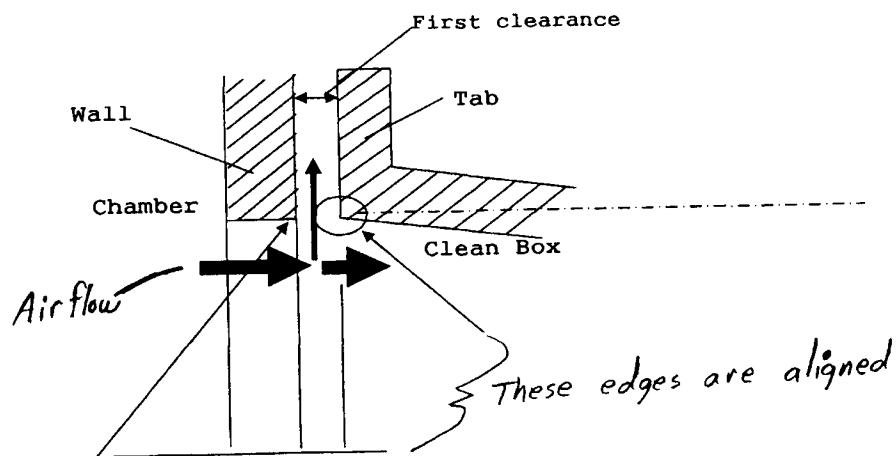
The simplified version of Fig. 3, discussed during the personal and telephone interviews is provided below.



As shown in the annotated figures provided above and as discussed during the personal and telephone interviews, it is clear that an outermost peripheral edge of the opening of the **clean box** is positioned closer to a center of said first opening portion in a direction along the chamber wall than a peripheral edge of said first opening portion in a direction parallel to a wall of the chamber wall.

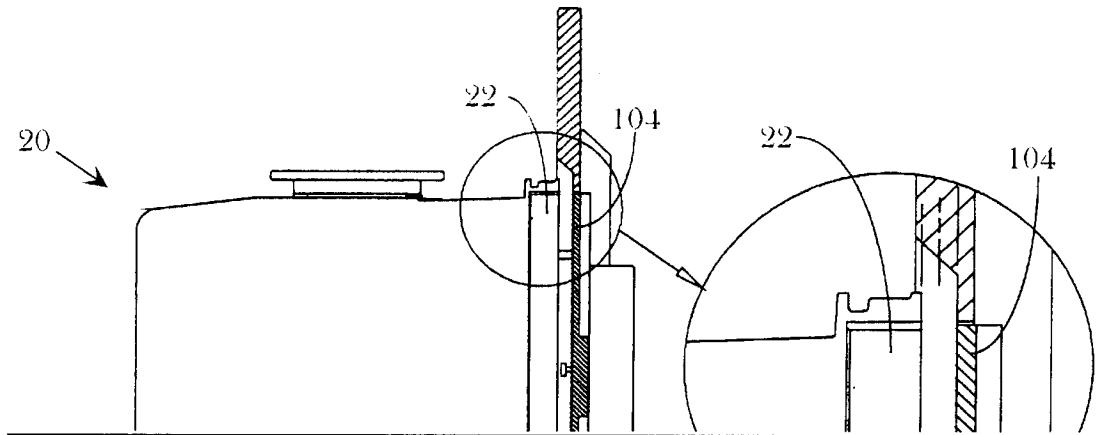
One benefit of the above-noted feature is that a part of an airflow from the inside of the chamber along the peripheral edge of said first opening portion in a direction normal to said first opening portion directly impacts the flange. The flange then directs airflow in the direction along the chamber wall, reducing the risk of contamination of the clean box or chamber.

In contrast, as further discussed in the interviews and shown in the annotated figure below, an outermost peripheral edge of the opening of the clean box in Rosenquist is not positioned **closer to** a center of said first opening portion in a direction along the chamber wall than a peripheral edge of said first opening portion in a direction parallel to a wall of the chamber wall.



Amended independent Claims 1 and 4 recite that an outermost peripheral **edge** of the opening of the clean box is positioned closer to a center of said first opening portion in a direction along the chamber wall than a peripheral **edge** of said first opening portion. As

shown in the annotated figure above and in Figs. 6A and 6B of Rosenquist below, Rosenquist does not provide the arrangement of edges recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 4.



As is evident from Fig. 6A of Rosenquist above, the peripheral edges of the openings in Rosenquist are aligned, and the edge of the opening of the clean box is not closer to a center of the opening in the wall than is the edge of the opening in the wall. The same fact is shown in Fig. 6B of Rosenquist below.

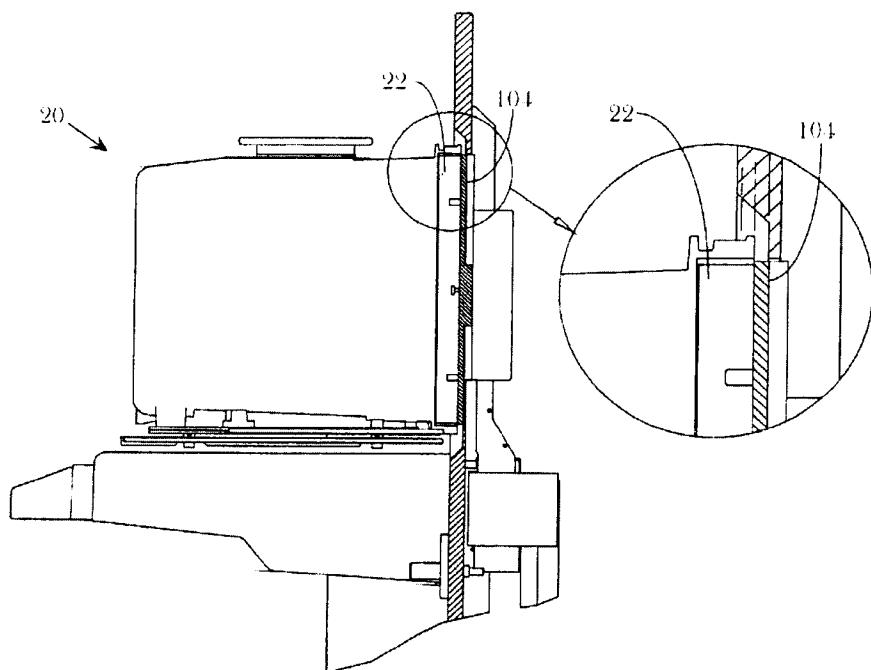


Fig. 6B

Rosenquist fails to disclose than an outermost peripheral edge of the opening of the clean box is positioned at a side closer to a center of said first opening portion in a direction along the chamber wall than a peripheral edge of said first opening portion along a plane parallel to the chamber wall.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 4 and each claim depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Rosenquist for at least the reasons discussed above.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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